(b) whether the said officer has been insisting petitions stamped for 8 annas for such interviews;

(c) under what provision of law (with reference to sections or rules) he has been insisting on such petitions;

(d) whether he has permitted interviews on unstamped and written applications;

(e) whether such stamped petitions are called for to interview under-trial prisoners in the Central Jail?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) As ex-officio Superintendent of the sub-jail.

(b) Yes.

(c) Under Schedule II (1) (b) of Cochin Court Fees Regulation II of 1080.

(d) Yes, in special circumstances.

(e) In the Central Jail the practice has been not to insist upon such petitions being stamped.

Ill-treatment of Satyagraha Volunteers by the Police.

141. Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government made any enquiries about the serious allegations against the Police of assault and ill-treatment of Satyagraha volunteers at Ernakulam on 7th December 1933 and 11th December 1933;

(b) the nature and the process of enquiry;

(c) when the enquiry was started and concluded;

(d) whether any statements were taken from the volunteers who were the victims of the alleged torture;

(e) when those statements were taken;

(f) whether the volunteers made charges against the Police;

(g) what those charges are;

(h) the Police officers against whom the charges were made;

(i) what orders were passed by the Government on the results of the enquiry?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) and (b) Yes. The District Magistrate interviewed the volunteers.

(c) Between 3rd Dhanu 1109 and 17th Dhanu 1109.

(d) No. Nor did the prisoner volunteers so give a statement.

(e), (f), (g) and (h) Do not arise in view of the answer to (d).

(i) The District Magistrate's report was recorded.

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Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—(c) How many times did the District Magistrate interview the prisoners between these two dates?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Notice.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—May I know whether the District Magistrate told these prisoners that he had been there on an enquiry regarding the alleged ill-treatment by the police.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Notice.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—May I know whether the District Magistrate asked the volunteers to tell him what all acts of ill-treatment they were subjected to?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Notice.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Was any other enquiry made by the Government except the so-called interview about these serious charges of which the Government have no information.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—No, because they were found to be false.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—How did you find it without an enquiry?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—The District Magistrate interviewed these prisoners in jail and no complaint was ever placed before him. Absence of any complaint naturally led him to think that the ill-treatment if any was after that.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—May I know whether the Government will tell us definitely that these prisoners did not make any complaint.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—No complaint has ever been preferred to the police officers or the District Magistrate.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—The question is whether the volunteers made any representation to the District Magistrate, whether they have specific information that no representation was ever made to the District Magistrate.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—No representation was made.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I shall read a portion of these reports "On the very night I interviewed the prisoners.. .....and none of them made any representation that they were tortured by the police"

President.—Question time is over.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Sir, the precedent here is.....

President.—Sit down. I don't want your precedent. I know what the practice here is. Have you any more questions to put, Mr. Seethi?

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Only one or two questions more, Sir.

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Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Have the Government passed final orders in this matter?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The complaints were recorded.

Works done in 1108 for which tenders were not called for.

142. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state the items of works done in 1108 for which no tenders were called for by the P. W. D. with the amount spent and the names of the contracts in each case?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—A list is appended. (*Appendix VIII*)

Opening of road at Cheruvalli Kadavu in Anjur village.

143. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform whether anything has been done for opening a road at Cheruvalli Kadavu in Anjur village which had been included in the list of work considered by the Road Board?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The work could not be provided for in the current year's budget for want of funds. It will be included in the budget for next year if funds permit.

Communal representation in services.

144. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have accepted the principle of giving increasing representation in service to communities which are not adequately represented in Government service without sacrificing efficiency; and if so,

(b) how long Government have been following this principle;

(c) whether the permanent Diwan has read questions numbers 233 and 411 answered on 4th and 11th August respectively;

(d) how many were appointed in Government service in the last three years; and of whom

(e) how many are (i) caste-Hindus (ii) non-caste Hindus (iii) Christians (iv) Muslims and (v) Jews;

(f) whether it is the policy of Government to reserve the posts of Heads of Departments to any particular community or communities; and if not,

(g) what steps have been taken since the inauguration of the 1st Legislative Council to give adequate representation to

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